

Message Text

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ACTION IO-10

INFO OCT-01 EA-06 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 OMB-01 EB-07 ACDA-05 SAM-01 /086 W

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R 230905Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3236

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DOHA

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY MUSCAT

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

USMISSION USUN

C O N F I D E N T I A L KUWAIT 2659

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UNGA, KN, KS, KU

SUBJECT: ROK SPECIAL MISSION

REF: STATE 131759 (NOTAL)

1. ROK ASSISTANT MINISTER FOR POLITICAL AFFAIRS CHUNG-TAI KIM
CALLED ON CHARGE JUNE 22 FOLLOWING ONE-HOUR MEETING WITH KUWAIT
UNDERSECRETARY MINISTRY FOREIGN AFFAIRS RASHID AL-RASHID.
ABOVE MEETING AND NUMBER OTHERS SCHEDULED BY LOCAL ROK TRADE
COMMISSIONER.

2. KIM SEEMED PLEASED WITH RESULT HIS MEETING WITH RASHID.
SAID HE OUTLINED IN DETAIL ROK PUBLIC SUPPORT ARAB CAUSE,
DESCRIBED USE BY KUWAIT OF KOREAN CREWS ON KUWAITI TANKERS,
\$250 MILLION SHIP-CONSTRUCTION PROGRAM FOR KUWAIT BEING UNDER-
TAKEN IN KOREA AND PRESENCE OF OVER FIFTY KOREAN TECHNICIANS
IN KUWAIT AND MORE THAN 1,000 SAME IN SAUDI ARABIA. TOLD RASHID
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THAT ROK WILLING TO SEE UNC LEAVE KOREA IF VIABLE ALTERNATIVE

DEVELOPED AND EXPLAINED US MILITARY PRESENCE, INDICATING CONFIDENCE THAT IT WOULD BE WITHDRAWN AT ANY TIME ROK DESIRED. KIM SAID HE BELIEVED HE HAD CONVINCED RASHID OF PEACEFUL INTENTIONS ROK AS OPPOSED TO AGGRESSIVE ATTITUDE TAKEN BY NORTH KOREANS. HIS PRESENTATION REPORTEDLY INCLUDED A "FRANK EXPOSITION" OF CHARGES THAT ROK REGIME TOTALITARIAN, WHICH HE DID NOT TOTALLY DENY BUT CONTRASTED FAVORABLY WITH EVEN MORE AUTHORITARIAN REGIME IN NORTH.

3. WHEN RASHID EXPOUNDED USUAL KUWAITI CLAIM TO EVENHANDEDNESS, KIM SAID HE CHALLENGED UNDER SECRETARY POINTING OUT GOK UNVOTING RECORD OVER PAST TWO YEARS. RASHID ALLEGEDLY EXPRESSED SURPRISE AND SAID HE WOULD "LOOK INTO MATTER." CONVERSATION REPORTEDLY CONCLUDED WITH RASHID OBSERVING THAT HE SAW NO REASON WHY THERE SHOULD NOT BE TWO KOREAS IN BOTH UNGA AND NAC AND URGING KIM TO "TELL HIS STORY AS WIDELY AS POSSIBLE IN KUWAIT AND GULF REGION." SAID HE WOULD BRIEF FOREIGN MINISTER (WHO IS IN CAIRO) FULLY.

4. KIM, WHO APPEARS HIGHLY COMPETENT AND WELL ORGANIZED, SOUGHT NO ASSISTANCE FROM EMBASSY OTHER THAN SUGGESTIONS CONCERNING OTHER INFLUENTIAL KUWAITIS HE MIGHT CALL ON. SAID HE WOULD CALL ON US AMBASSADORS IN LOWER GULF (PER SCHEDULE REFTEL) FOR SIMILAR ADVICE SINCE ROK TRADE COMMISSIONER IN KUWAIT LESS WELL ACQUAINTED IN THAT AREA. KIM OUTLINED HIS STRATEGY IN ARAB WORLD DURING CURRENT MISSION, WHICH DOWNPLAYS US CONNECTION (BECAUSE OF ISRAEL) AND STRESSES SUPPORT ALREADY RECEIVED FROM COUNTRIES SUCH AS SAUDI ARABIA, SRI LANKA AND, ALLEGEDLY, PERU. HE IS HOPEFUL SAG WILL SUPPORT HIS EFFORTS IN LOWER GULF AND IN KUWAIT.

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